

DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

**Arts Committee Meeting
January 5, 2009
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor
Hartford, Connecticut**

Present: Ted Yudain, Karen Arnold, Walter Fiederowicz, Betty Hale, Paul Pozzi, Michael Price, Rita Schmidt, Ann Sheffer

Staff: An-Ming Truxes, John Cusano, Cathy DeMeo (recording), Tamara Dimitri, Bonnie Koba

Absent: Carolyn Cicchetti, Dan Heffernan, John Hollander, Clem Roy

Call to Order

Ted Yudain called the meeting to order at 12:47 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 10, 2008 meeting were approved.

Motion: Ann Sheffer

Second: Karen Arnold

Unanimous approval

Report from the Committee Chair

Ted Yudain noted that Arts Committee meetings scheduled for February 2 and May 4, 2009 will begin at 12:45 pm instead of 1:00 pm.

Report from the Arts Division Director

An-Ming Truxes reminded committee members that nominations for Governor's Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism as well as Distinguished Advocates Awards are due January 16, and encouraged committee members to submit nominations.

Elizabeth Alexander, a Connecticut poet who chairs the African-American Studies program at Yale University, has been commissioned to compose and read a poem for President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration on January 20. She is the fourth poet to recite at a presidential inauguration.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) released on December 16, 2008, an interim update of State Arts Agency budgets that was shared with the committee. Connecticut ranks second in per capita spending on the arts when line items are included, and ranks tenth without line items.

The latest issue of *The NASAA Advocate*, which offers on-line strategies for arts advocacy, and *ArtsLink*, the Americans for the Arts newsletter, were also distributed to the committee.

Action Item Recommendations

A. FY09 Artist Fellowships – Tamara Dimitri

Approved 36 grants to artists totaling \$122,500.

Motion: Paul Pozzi

Second: Betty Hale

Unanimous approval

B. FY09 Elizabeth L. Mahaffey Arts Administration Fellowship – Cathy DeMeo

Approved a fellowship in the amount of \$2500 to Ann Shapiro, Executive Director of the Connecticut Storytelling Center

Motion: Paul Pozzi

Second: Ann Sheffer

Unanimous approval

C. Art in Public Spaces Fellow – An-Ming Truxes

Approval of John O'Donnell as the 2009 Art in Public Spaces Fellow

Motion: Paul Pozzi

Second: Rita Schmidt

Unanimous approval

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm.

Motion: Paul Pozzi

Second: Rita Schmidt

Unanimous approval

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen DeMeo

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2 at 12:45 p.m.